

County, Madison Village, Madison Schools agree to sewer change

John Arthur Hutchison
JHutchison@News-Herald.com

Lake County commissioners have approved a memorandum of understanding with Madison Village and Madison Schools to help provide sewers for the new middle school.

One final step must take place before that may happen, even though groundbreaking took place last week.

The board for the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for five counties, will meet today in Cleveland and will decide whether to approve a

change to the boundaries of the sewer service maps.

Commissioners Robert E. Aufd'ish and Daniel P. Troy will attend that meeting as they are part of that board.

The school construction site is located at 6079 Middle Ridge Road, which for now is part of the county's jurisdiction for sewer service.

The change included in the agreement made Thursday would allow the village to provide the sewer service.

"What I think people need to understand, this particular site is within the county's 208 mapped territory, which means the county is

responsible to provide service in that area," Troy said.

He said the county "is being fairly gracious to help the schools reduce their costs by allowing them to tie into the Madison Village wastewater system."

It also means the county gives up potential future customers in that area who would have been served by the county sewer service, Troy said, adding that's an important concession because the county plans to expand the Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency had told the school district it was not in favor of grant-

ing approval of village permits for the new middle school site on Middle Ridge Road because of noncompliance and capacity issues in Madison Village's sanitary sewer system.

Village Mayor Robert F. Lee said the village provided the EPA with a short-term maintenance plan for the system and village officials said they have been meeting milestones to fix the issues.

Troy hopes that the problems don't reoccur in the near future.

"I hope we aren't having this discussion in a few years where you're asking the county to take over the services," he said.

Lee said the middle school also

The deal

More on the sewer agreement and the future of water service.

www.News-Herald.com

will need to receive water service.

The mayor said the school district and village will likely provide a hardship request to ask commissioners to allow the village to supply the water to the school.

For now, the county is responsible for providing water service to the area.

